

PUBLIC DEFENDER
IN ACTION

EXCITING CHAMPION OF JUSTICE



No 12

PUBLIC DEFENDER

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

EXCITING DANGER
IN THE CASE OF

IN ACTION

10¢

"The Vanished Clue"



MASQUE
MASCOT



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

"WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T-N-T IN YOUR FISTS"

Says **JOE LOUIS**, Great World Champion



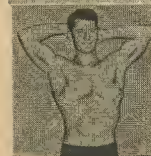
HIGH SCHOOL STAR—Maurice Hackley of Miami Beach shows Dad powerful muscles developed by the Champions.

You can Broaden your Shoulders and Add Solid New Muscles... **AS WE DID!**



STATE TROOPER—George Sheridan of Springfield learned Self Defense from the Champs when 16 years old.

POPULAR LEADER—Robert Colville of Jersey City credits the Champions with his new popularity.



"Yes... we Champions can build you a new, power-packed rippling-muscled body. Our training secrets have worked wonders for thousands of other fellows... and we can do the same for you.

If you're weak or skinny, Mickey Mantle will build your body—turn flabby muscles into steel... FAST. If you want speed and stamina, Bob Cousy can make you fast... LOTS OF FUN.

No matter what your size, shape or condition, we have *proved* we can help you. It's simple. It's easy. Find out how NSC's Stars make you a real man in just 15 minutes of fun a day... at home!

Extra! I'll send you my "Fight Secrets" for only 10c—if you'll write today. So... send me the coupon below right away!"

Sincerely,

Joe Louis



Are You..

Skinny... Tired Weak... Nervous Fat and Flabby Always Being Picked On?

Then do as Joe and his Staff tell you... send coupon below.

LET 20 GREAT STARS GIVE YOU POWER... SKILL... CONFIDENCE

Famous Sport Stars are waiting to train you in 15 exciting minutes a day. Ted Kluszewski explains his Conditioning secrets... Yogi Berra builds up your confidence... Kid Gavilan teaches you self-defense. You'll be the envy of your friends when you are "in the know" on the Champions' training routines for Baseball... Football... Boxing... Basketball... and other Sports.



ACT NOW!

ENCLOSE 10c



MAIL COUPON TODAY

JOE LOUIS, c/o NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, DEPT. AL-47
33 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Joe,

- ☐ Please send me absolutely FREE a full and complete explanation of how The National Sports Council can build me the right kind of body
- ☐ Enclosed is 10c. Include your famous Fight Secrets

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

☐ Check here for special booklet if under 15.

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THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

33 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York Dept. AL-47

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

Volume 1, Number 12

OCTOBER, 1957

Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class Mailing privileges authorized at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues \$1.20. Copyright 1957 by Charlton Comics Group. Pat Masulli, Executive Editor. (Printed in U.S.A.)

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

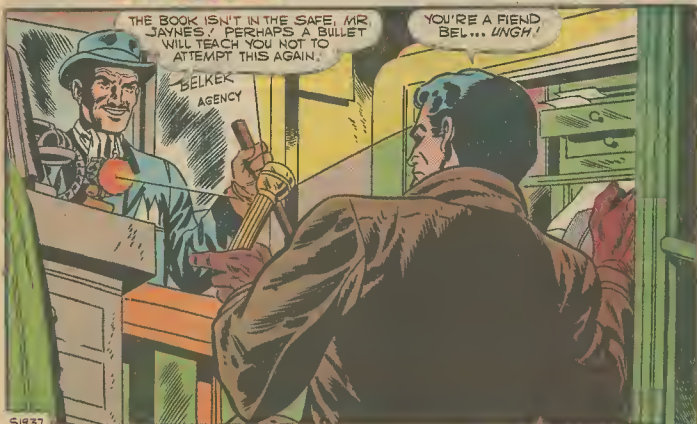


THIS SEAL OF APPROVAL APPEARS ONLY ON COMIC MAGAZINES WHICH HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY REVIEWED, PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY, AND FOUND TO HAVE MET THE HIGH STANDARDS OF MORALITY AND GOOD TASTE REQUIRED BY THE CODE. THE CODE AUTHORITY OPERATES APART FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL PUBLISHER AND EXERCISES INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT WITH RESPECT TO CODE-COMPLIANCE. A COMIC MAGAZINE BEARING ITS SEAL IS YOUR ASSURANCE OF GOOD READING AND PICTORIAL MATTER.

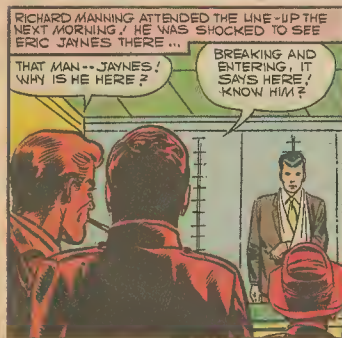
Pat Masulli Executive Editor

PUBLIC DEFENDER in the BLACK BOOK OF TEARS

THE LITTLE BOOK MEANT GRIEF TO HUNDREDS... AND MARK BELKER GLORIED IN THE POWER THE SECRETS IT HELD GAVE HIM! MEN LIKE ERIC JAYNES, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD DO ANYTHING TO DESTROY IT!



S1937

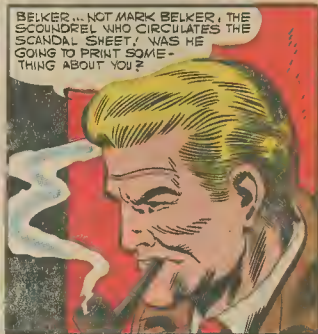


PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

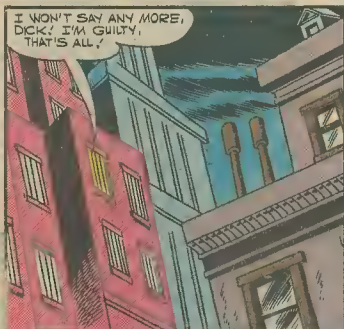


BUT YOU'RE NOT A THIEF, YOU'RE WEALTHY, MAN!

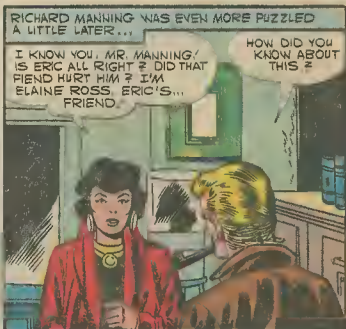
MY MONEY COULDN'T BUY BELKER'S BLACK BOOK--SO I TRIED TO TAKE IT! HE CAUGHT ME AT IT--SHOT ME AND LAUGHED!



BELKER... NOT MARK BELKER, THE SCOUNDREL WHO CIRCULATES THE SCANDAL SHEET, WAS HE GOING TO PRINT SOMETHING ABOUT YOU?



I WON'T SAY ANY MORE, DICK! I'M GUILTY, THAT'S ALL!



RICHARD MANNING WAS EVEN MORE PUZZLED A LITTLE LATER...

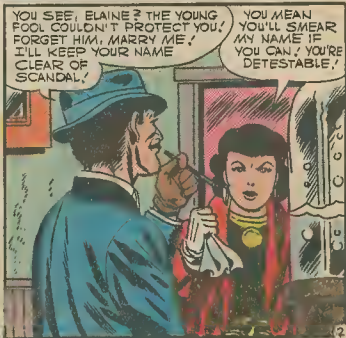
I KNOW YOU, MR. MANNING! IS ERIC ALL RIGHT? DID THAT FIEND HURT HIM? I'M ELAINE ROSS, ERIC'S... FRIEND.

HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?



HE DID IT FOR ME, MR. MANNING, AND HE DIDN'T NEED TO! I DON'T CARE WHAT BELKER HAS IN THAT BLACK BOOK ABOUT ME!

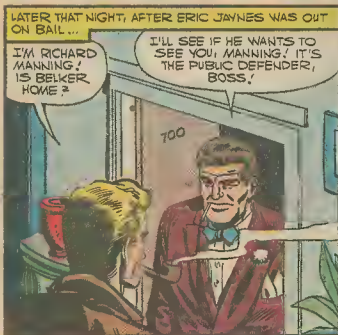
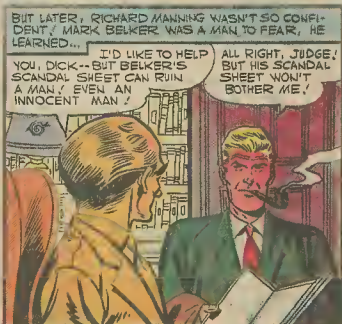
TELL HIM, THEN ELAINE! HERE HE IS NOW...



YOU SEE, ELAINE? THE YOUNG FOOL COULDN'T PROTECT YOU! FORGET HIM, MARRY ME! I'LL KEEP YOUR NAME CLEAR OF SCANDAL!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL SMEAR MY NAME IF YOU CAN, YOU'RE DETESTABLE!

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



AMAZING PRECISION MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Takes secret pictures! Easily carried in the palm of your hand —

only 2" x 1 1/4"



Essentially unnoticed under a flower in your lapel. While they're kissing, you're photographing. Wow! Won't they be surprised. So many other ways to conceal also.

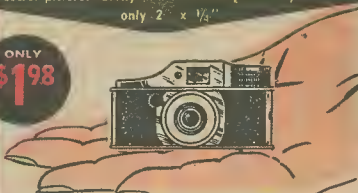


Your girl friend and other bathing beauties will all relax in their natural pose and make a swell snap-up collection. Through a flower is just one of the many ways to go about it.

LOOK! FREE!

Order right away and receive FREE one roll of flash film enough for 10 pictures. Add-on film available at only 25¢ per roll of 10 exposures.

ONLY
\$1.98



A precision built camera that is so amazingly small it is less than 1/2 the size of a regular pack of cigarettes and can be taken everywhere you go. It weighs only 2 1/2 ounces and is solid all metal construction with chrome trim. It's got a professional eye level view finder and a single action 1/25th second and time exposure shutter with a precision ground lens that assures you a clear, sharp instantaneous picture. It takes ten pictures per roll on low cost film (standard 16 MM). Makes for beautiful enlargements. So compact and precision made, it can be hidden anywhere and takes true-to-life "spy" pictures that should really provide you with loads of fun and interest. Only \$1.98 complete with a free roll of film. Don't delay! Order now.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

We know you'll have so much fun and excitement with your Secret Camera that we offer it to you at 10 Days Free Trial. Use it and if you're not 100% delighted with its performance, return to us and your money will be refunded in full.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. CA-11
35 Wilbur St. Lynbrook, N. Y.
Rush my Secret Camera and free roll of film for \$1.98 at once. If I am not 100% delighted I may return it after 10 Days Free Trial for prompt refund of the full purchase price.
☐ I assure payment. Same Money Back Guarantee.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

Name _____
Address _____

FREE!
ELIZABETH II
COLONIES
STAMPS
and other big offers!



RUSH COUPON AT ONCE! Here's one of the most exciting offers ever made to stamp collectors. Get this big, generous collection FREE — scarce, beautiful stamps from many of the most interesting, far-flung British Colonies all over the world. Aden, Fiji Islands, North Borneo, Cyprus, Singapore, Bermuda, many more. All different, all genuine.

PLUS — FREE copy of helpful "Stamp Collector's Guide". That's not all! Also **FREE**, color reproduction and fascinating story of a 1¢ stamp worth \$50,000. Other valuable offers included for your free inspection. Offer may be withdrawn soon so **rush coupon today**. If coupon is clipped, send 10¢ for postage and handling to **GARCELON STAMP CO., Dept. C04K, Calais, Maine.**

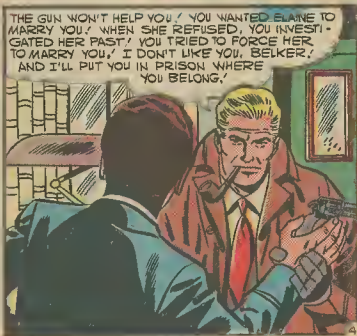
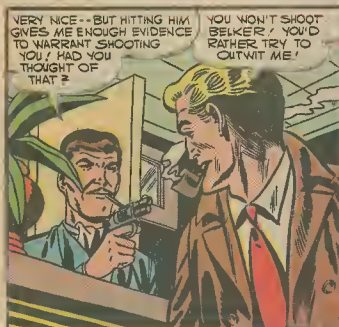
GET 3 BIG OFFERS FREE!

GARCELON STAMP CO., Dept. C04K Calais, Maine
Rush FREE Colonies Stamps, \$50,000 Stamp Souvenir, Collector's Guide, other offers. Enclosed 10¢ for postage, handling. (PLEASE PRINT)

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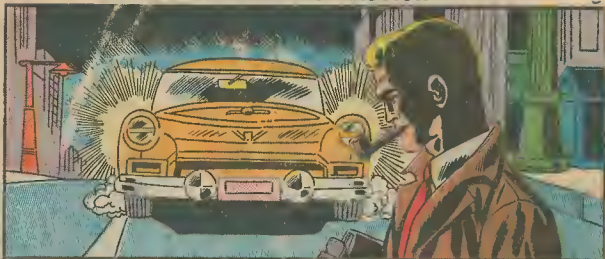
RUSH TODAY! LIMITED OFFER!

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

RICHARD
MANNING
WAS
THOUGHT-
FUL ON
HIS
WAY
HOME...
AND IT
ALMOST
COST
HIM
HIS
LIFE...



LOOK OUT YOU...
BELKER'S
STOGE!



THE PUBLIC DEFENDER CALLED
ELAINE ROSS AND ERIC JAYNES
TO HIS OFFICE THE NEXT DAY.
ELAINE WAS FRIGHTENED...

ELAINE, BELKER
KNOWS ABOUT
YOUR PART IN
THE NEW YORK
DIVORCE
CASE,
DOESN'T
HE?

LOOK,
MANNING,
LAY OFF,
THAT'S OVER
WITH NOW.

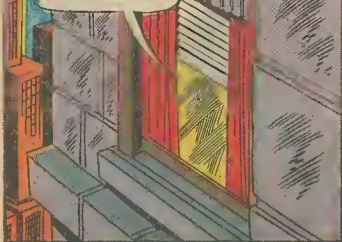


BELKER HAD PART OF THE
FACTS, AS YOU DO, ERIC.
THE PART YOU DON'T KNOW
IS THAT ELAINE WAS
COMPLETELY INNOCENT!
THE MAN'S WIFE
FALSIFIED THE
EVIDENCE, THE
POLICE KNOW
NOW.

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
THAT, OH,
ERIC, I
TOLD YOU!



I COULD JAIL BELKER NOW FOR ATTEMPTED
BLACKMAIL-- BUT THAT LITTLE BLACK BOOK
OF HIS COULD CAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE
MUCH GRIEF! I MUST GET THAT FIRST!
ERIC, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP
ME! LISTEN...



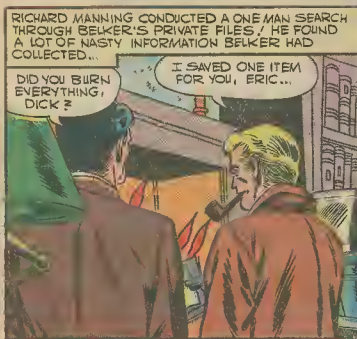
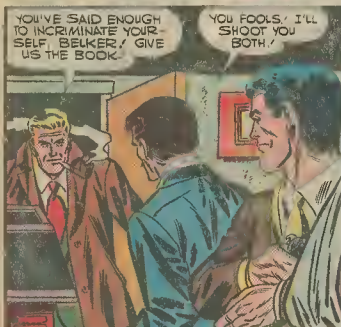
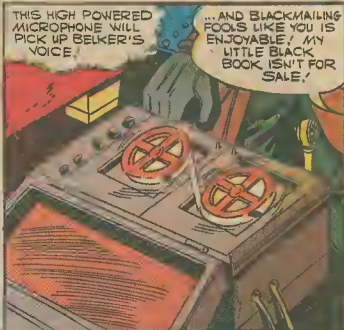
LATER THAT DAY, ERIC JAYNES CALLED ON MARK
BELKER. HE HAD A BRIEFCASE SUPPOSEDLY
CONTAINING ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS...

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE
HUNDRED THOUSAND
FOR THE BOOK,
BELKER!

NONSENSE, MAN, I'LL
MAKE FIVE TIMES THAT
AMOUNT FROM IT! I'VE
MADE THAT MUCH FROM
OTHERS ALREADY!



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

WHEN LINK BRADEN FACED THE JUDGE, HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY! THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM WAS CONCLUSIVE... AND ONLY RICHARD MANNING, PUBLIC DEFENDER, DIDN'T BELIEVE HIS...

PLEA of GUILT



51932

RICHARD MANNING HAD MET LINK BRADEN SOCIALLY ONCE! BRADEN WAS AT THE HORSE RACES THAT DAY ...

THIS IS ONE OF OUR MORE ATTRACTIVE GAMBLERS! RICHARD MANNING, THIS IS LINK BRADEN!



GLAD TO KNOW YOU, MISTER MANNING! I CAN ONLY HELP THE INNOCENT, LINK! YOU'RE PROBABLY GUILTY ANYHOW!



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

THERE WAS ONLY THAT ONE MEETING--BUT MANNING WAS OBSERVANT...

NICE YOUNG FELLOW! GOOD CLOTHES, WELL WORN--HORSE LOVER, RATHER THAN PLUNGER TYPE! GOOD TYPE!



LESS THAN A MONTH LATER, RICHARD MANNING WAS IN THE DETECTIVES' SQUAD ROOM WHEN HE HEARD LINK BRADEN'S NAME AGAIN...

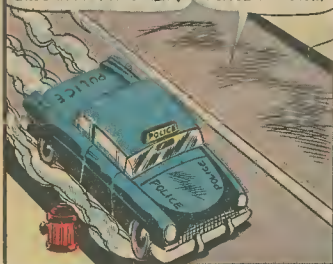
GOT A NICE TRICKY EMBEZZLEMENT CASE, MANNING? CARE TO COME ALONG?

WHY NOT?



THIS ONE SHOULD BE EASY! THEY'VE ALREADY COLLARED A LAD NAMED BRADEN! FOUND SOME MISSING BILLS IN HIS APARTMENT!

BRADEN? HMM... WONDER IF THAT COULD BE LINK BRADEN, THE HORSE PLAYER...



HI, MANNING! REMEMBER THAT BUM JOKE OF MINE? LOOKS LIKE EVEN YOU COULDN'T HELP ME NOW!

DON'T BE TOO SURE, BRADEN! HOW'S IT LOOK, HOLBEK?

BRADEN'S OUR CHOICE, MR. MANNING! MOTIVE, OPPORTUNITY, AND CASH ALL THERE!



YES, LINK BRADEN SEEMED GUILTY! HIS BOSS HARLOW BATES, WAS SHOCKED...

THIS IS TERRIBLE! YOUNG BRADEN IS A FINE YOUNG MAN! IT'S INCREDIBLE!

IT IS TO ME TOO BATES! MAYBE BRADEN WAS FRAMED...



WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING I... YOU INTERFERING MEDDLER!

HOLD IT!

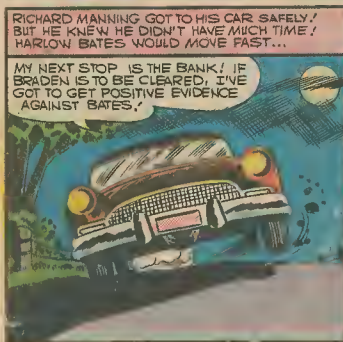
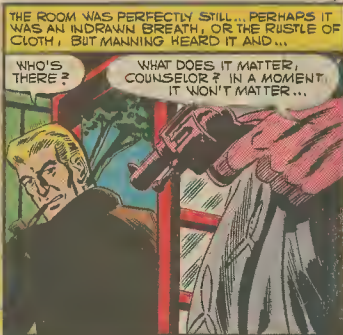


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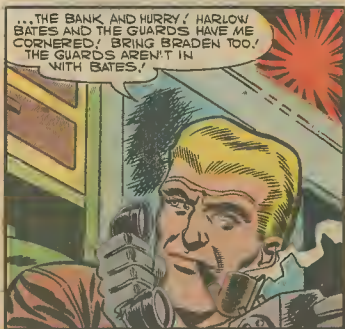
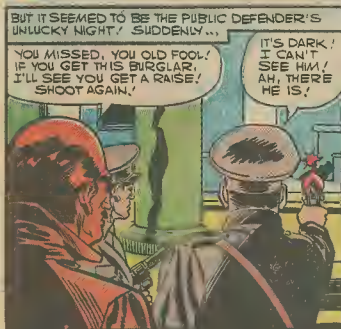
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PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN! CASH or PREMIUMS

EXTRA! EXTRA!

If you mail coupon at once—we'll send you exciting new "PUZZLES" free of charge. MAIL COUPON BELOW

WE GIVE YOU

JIM and BETTY SOLVE THE "FLYING SAUCER" MYSTERY!

LOOK BETTY!

I'LL BET IT'S A FLYING SAUCER!

LET'S GET OUR TELESCOPE AND BINOCULARS AND SEE!

HEY! THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EARTH SATELLITE!

I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY-

FLASH! SCIENTISTS HAVE JUST LAUNCHED THE FIRST EARTH SATELLITE. ANYONE SPOTTING IT PLEASE CALL US AT ONCE!

GODD WORK, BETTY AND JIM! YOU ARE THE FIRST TO SPOT OUR NEW OBSERVATION SATELLITE!

GOSH! HERE ARE BETTY AND JIM'S PICTURES IN TODAY'S PAPER!!

HOW DID YOU KIDS EVER GET A RADIO, A TELESCOPE AND BINOCULARS?

IT WAS EASY, KIDS - WE EARNED THEM, AND LOTS MORE SWELL PREMIUMS, SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

EXTRA FREE GIFT FOR MAILING COUPON NOW

You'll receive FREE "PUZZLES" - a thrilling collection of 15 puzzles - 18 riddles. All real stumblers but easy when you know how - and we give you all the answers. Work 'em on your friends - they'll think you're a real smarty! Great fun for everybody! Mail coupon. We'll send free catalog too! Dozens of wonderful premiums (sent postage paid) SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Rush coupon to start.

WE ARE RELIABLE!

MAIL COUPON

"Puzzles" will be sent to you absolutely FREE!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. CC-99 Tyrone, Pa. Date _____
Gentlemen: Please send me on trial 14 colorful pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start. Be sure to send my FREE "PUZZLES":

NAME _____ AGE _____
ST _____ & D _____ BOX _____
TOWN _____ ZONE NO _____ STATE _____
PRINT LAST NAME FIRST _____
Poste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

MAIL COUPON - WE ARE RELIABLE - OVER 62 YEARS

WILSON CHEMICAL COMPANY Dept. CC-99 Tyrone, Pa.

ALUM. DOUBLE BOWL 3 QT. FRENCH PRESS

3 PC. STEAK KNIFE SET 3 PC. ALUMINUM SAUCEPAN SET

COIN POPPER

HARMONICA TONIC

TOASTER SHAVING: STAND OVAL ROSTER

BLACK CAMO SET SCHOOL BAG

ACT NOW!

LIVE PONY!

3 PC. CARVING SET 4 EGG POACHERS

TABLEWARE SET

JEWEL BOXES WAGONS

ELECTRIC TOASTER WAFFLETS

TEA KETTLE LEAD PENCILS

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

BE THE FIRST

DOZENS OF OTHER PREMIUMS

ALARM CLOCK TURKISH TOWELS STATIONERY

GUARANTEED BY Food Hireskeeping

WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE

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WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE

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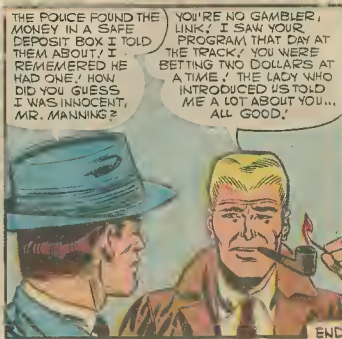
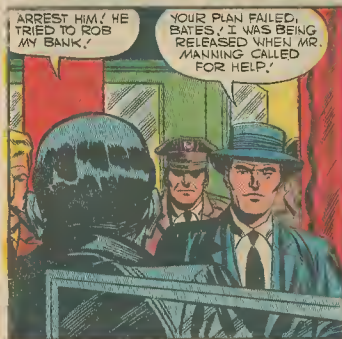
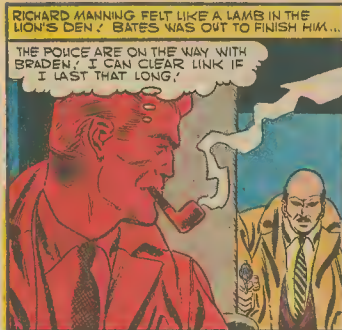
GUARANTEED BY Food Hireskeeping

WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE

PRICELESS

GUARANTEED BY Food Hireskeeping

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

CRIME FACTS

THE STREET IS DARK... AND THE LONE PEDESTRIAN DOESN'T EVEN SEE HIS ASSAILANT'S FACE AS HE'S HIT AND FALLS! THEN, THE WALLET IS SWIFTLY FOUND AND THE CRIMINAL IS GONE! APPARENTLY, THIS IS A PERFECT CRIME...



51827

BUT THEN THE VICTIM IS FOUND AND THE POLICE ARE CALLED! IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE CLUES AFTER ALL...

NO, I CAN'T REMEMBER... WAIT! HE HAD A SOUTHERN DRAWL! BUT THAT DOESN'T HELP, DOES IT?

HERE'S THE WALLET HE DROPPED! EMPTY, OF COURSE!



SEND IT TO THE LAB FOR PRINTS!

LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS, A DOZEN MEN GO TO WORK ON THE CASE! THEY HAVE ONE SMUGGED THUMBPRINT TO GO ON... PLUS STRONG SUSPICIONS...

HERE'S SEVEN SOUTHERNERS WITH RECORDS WHO WE KNOW ARE IN THIS CITY NOW! WANT PRINTS ON THEM?

RIGHT THUMB PRINTS ESPECIALLY! THIS PRINT WON'T NAIL OUR MAN DOWN BUT IT MAY ELIMINATE SOME OF THEM!



THAT NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE MEN! AND DETECTIVE KERWIN ACTED FAST...

DROP IT, BACKMANN! YOU HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO GET RID OF THE MONEY HAVE YOU? ABOUT SIXTY DOLLARS!

SURE, AH GOT DOUGH -- BUT IT'S MINE, YUH CAN'T PROVE A THING.



BACKMANN CONFESSED! THE MONEY HE TOOK CONTAINED NUMBERS WRITTEN ON ONE BILL, IDENTIFIED BY THE VICTIM'S BOOKKEEPER! THE CRIME WAS SOLVED SEVEN HOURS AFTER IT WAS COMMITTED!



END

BIG BILLS

"My Uncle Julius was sick," said Detective Al Narton. "So my wife decided to give his wife a bit of help. Called me up on the phone and told me she wouldn't be home. All I would have to do is to make my own breakfast. Sounds simple, doesn't it? At seven-thirty the next morning I was in the kitchen. I found the can of frozen orange juice, but where my wife hid the can opener was and still is a mystery. Spent fifteen good valuable minutes looking for it. Then I took a hammer and the screw driver. One smack and I went through the can and dented the table top. That was the end of any desire for orange juice.

"So I thought I should have fried eggs and bacon. I put some butter in the pan. Maybe I was dreaming. Next thing I knew the butter was burning. Then I put the eggs into another pan. How the egg shells got into that pan is something funny, but they were there! I turned around to look at the morning paper. The three strips of bacon were ruined.

"I figured that I should settle for coffee and toast, but something was wrong with the electric toaster. One slice refused to get even warm. The other came out looking like a thick hunk of wood that had been burned. It even tasted that way. When I went for the bottle of instant coffee, what do you think I found? It was empty! Here in the midst of civilization, I was starving."

"Why didn't you go around to the corner drug store and get some breakfast," interrupted Detective Ben Egan. "It would have saved you time, temper, and no worry at all."

"Exactly what I did," smiled Detective Al Norton. "Only I should have thought of it early in the morning before I went into my own kitchen."

The phone rang and Al Norton answered it. No need to continue on the topic of a man trying to make a good morning breakfast.

"Chief Edward Mirkus wants us in his office at once: Says he just received a phone call and we will have to leave everything and get in there pronto. Come on! We can't keep the Chief waiting."

The police chief was proud of the two members of his Special Squad. They could handle

anything from the ordinary routine matters to the toughest assignment. The door to his office was open and they walked in.

"Officer Frank Moore called in five minutes ago. His foot beat is on the east side of Central Avenue. Some story he had to tell me. There's a house at 212 Central Avenue. Just full of money. Two men went in with a flour barrel that was empty and filled it with money. They had a fight with Mrs. Hilda Shutska. Left the barrel but took \$5,000 with them. Edwards and Green of the Robbery Squad are out there. Get out in a hurry and find out how a house is full of money."

Twenty minutes later, Detectives Al Narton and Ben Egan parked their car outside of the nine-room two story house located at 212 Central Avenue. Another police car was ahead of them. Officer Frank Moore was outside and escorted both of them inside.

"You just look for yourself before you do any asking of questions," warned the police officer. "There's money, money, everywhere in the house. We found money in one-pound coffee bags filled to the top and carelessly tossed into corners. Then there was the closet in the hall. In the pockets of every pair of pants and jacket we found money. There were 20 pairs of trousers and 10 jackets. In the kitchen, the utensils and flower pots were loaded with coins. The bathtub is full of five dollar bills. Down in the coal bin there isn't one little lump of coal. The thing is filled with dimes, quarters, and half dollars."

The two detectives followed the police officer into a living room that was furnished with old chairs that should have long ago been in the junk heap. Seated at a table, were officers Edward and Green. Both were busy counting money.

"Hello fellows," greeted Detective Al Norton. "Where am I? Is this the United States Mint? Or a bank from Civil War Days?"

"When the reporters get here, they won't believe it," sighed Edwards. "So far we figure this place has about \$125,450.00 in good money. Old, but good. The bills are the big ones they once issued. Mr. John Shutska and his wife Hilda didn't believe in keeping their

money in banks. Seems they have the reputation of being poor. I don't get it."

Twenty minutes later, one Theodore Witsman, attorney-at-law, was permitted to enter the house. The Shutska's were his clients. They had called him. He spoke to them and then to Detectives Al Norton and Ben Egan.

"For forty years, Jahn Shutska drove a garbage truck. He just saved all of his money. That includes tips people gave him. I have tried in vain to get them to put the money into a bank. Now they will listen to me. A tall man rang their bell this morning. Said he was a gas inspector. They opened the door. He held a piece of pipe in his hand and threatened to hit them if they screamed. His partner brought in an empty barrel and started to fill it with money. Mrs. Shutska scratched the stout man with her finger nails. Her husband fought with the other man. They fled but grabbed a big package of those large one dollar bills."

"We can get into action at once," suggested Detective Al Norton. "They may try to buy gas and we'll contact all gas stations. Or they might try to get some first aid stuff at a drug store. So we will notify drug stores. Also other stores to be on the lookout for those large dollar bills."

The two detectives returned quickly to headquarters and prepared the notices which went out before dark. It was the next morning that results showed up. They received a telephone call to come out to Mack's Gas Station at the corner of Edgemere Road and Perciville Street. The two detectives drove out.

"The name is Mack Burney," said the owner. "I got one of those notices. Last night at about seven-thirty a fellow drives up in a 1948 Plymouth. In good condition. Blue sedan. Buys ten gallons and a quart of oil. Gives me those large old paper dollars. For a moment I hesitated, but took them. Gave change and managed to get a good look at the two. One had his face scratched. I thought something must be fishy. So when they left, I took a fast glance at the back license plate. Jotted the number down on the pad in my office. Wait and I'll get it for you."

The two detectives read the license number: SK-234-891. If the car wasn't stolen, the rest would be easy.

"We ought to get a quick run down on the

owner from the Auto License Bureau," remarked Detective Al Norton to his buddy. "Lou Daly is in charge. He's quick at getting results."

An hour later the two detectives found themselves in front of an address. It was an old boarding house on the outskirts of the town. In front of the boarding house was a 1948 Plymouth blue sedan with the license number of SK-234-891.

"If they are in, we better be careful," suggested Detective Ben Egan.

The two detectives rang the bell. A tired old lady with a map in her hand answered.

"I don't care what it is you have to sell or give away. I just am not interested."

"You will be interested in our credentials," replied Detective Ben Egan.

"Oh," she apologized as she saw the badges. Then she led them into her living room and listened to what they had to say.

"The tall one is Slim Summers and his friend is Jack Gutter. They have a small apartment on the top floor. One came in last night with scratches on his face. I gave him peroxide and fixed it for him. Said he had a fight with his girl friend. They are out now but should be back within half an hour."

The two detectives waited. The old lady watched through the window. She nodded and pointed.

"Coming in now."

The door opened and the two men came in with some packages.

"Same people to see you," she remarked. "Come right into the living room."

The two detectives were standing. It was Slim Summers who looked them both up and down.

"We don't know you guys. So beat it."

Detective Al Norton showed his badge. The two men looked at each other.

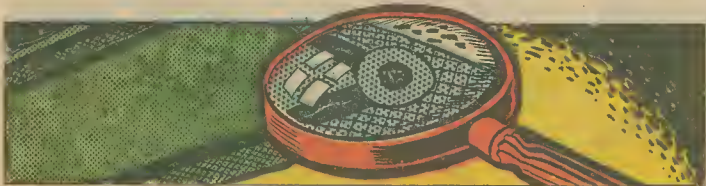
"A ticket for parking the car near a fire hydrant?" asked Jack Gutter.

"For robbery and assault. Came to headquarters and be peaceful about it."

"We give back all the money and you forget about it," suggested Jack Gutter.

"You give back the money and you'll see what you can forget behind prison bars," replied Detective Ben Egan.

— THE END —

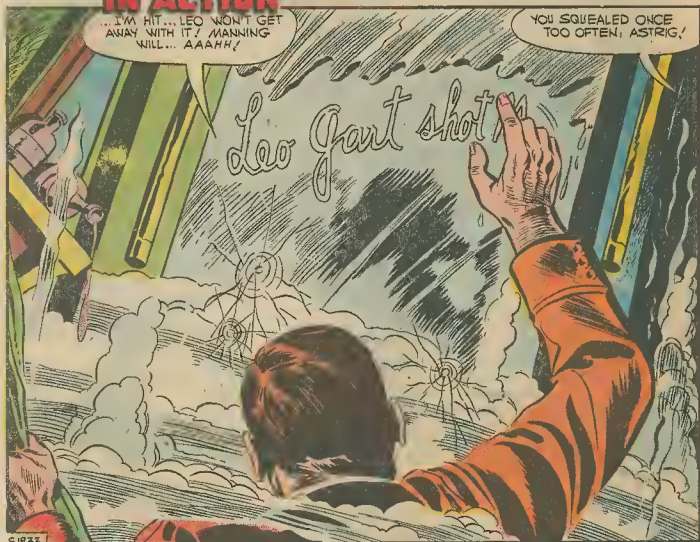


PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

IN VANISHED CLUE

AS GANGSTERS' BULLETS POUNDED AT HIM, THE VICTIM REACHED FOR THE STEAMY MIRROR AND WROTE PAINFULLY BUT CLEARLY... THE NAME OF THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN THAT WAS TRYING TO TAKE HIS LIFE!



51935

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, RICHARD MANNING, FIRST SAW JOE ASTRIG WHEN HE WAS ARRAIGNED ON ROBBERY CHARGES...

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT? I TRIED TO HOLD UP A BOOKIE, THAT'S ALL!

YOU MUST HAVE A LAWYER! MR. MANNING, WILL YOU DEFEND THIS MAN!



LATER, IN THE DETENTION CELL NEAR THE COURT ROOM...

JOE, YOU'RE NOT A CRIMINAL! WHY DID YOU ROB THE BOOKMAKER?

HE ROBBED ME, DIDN'T HE? AND HIS BOSS, LEO GANT, HE BEAT ME UP!

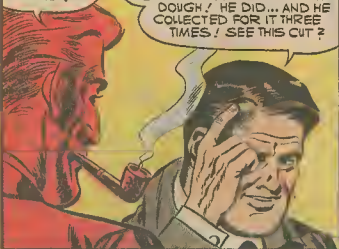


PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

THAT NAME RANG A BELL. LEO GART WAS A GANGSTER ... SLIPPERY, HARD TO CONNECT..

WHAT ABOUT GART? IS HE IN THIS?

SURE! THE BOOKIE TOLD ME TO SEE HIM WHEN I WENT BROKE! SAID HE'D LEND ME DOUGH! HE DID... AND HE COLLECTED FOR IT THREE TIMES! SEE THIS CUT?



HE TRIED TO KEEP COLLECTIN' AND I SQUANKED! HE SUGGED ME! TOLD ME TO RAISE THE DOUGH IN TWO DAYS!



THE PUBLIC DEFENDER SUC-CEEDED IN GETTING THE DEFENDANT PAROLED IN HIS CUSTODY! ASTRIG WAS GRATEFUL BUT AFRAID...

RELAX, MAN! MAYBE I CAN GET A SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR YOU!

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE LAW! LEO GART IS THE ONE THAT WORRIES ME!



ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RICHARD MANNING, GART WAS QUESTIONED ONCE MORE!

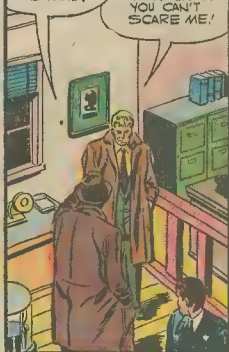
I DON'T REMEMBER! MAYBE SEE, MANNING? NOT, ASTRIG'S SQUANKIN' DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD AT ALL!

BUT YOU'LL GET JUSTICE SOONER OR LATER!



NO THREATS, COUNSELOR! DON'T GET ME MAD!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU GET MAD OR NOT, GART! YOU CAN'T SCARE ME!



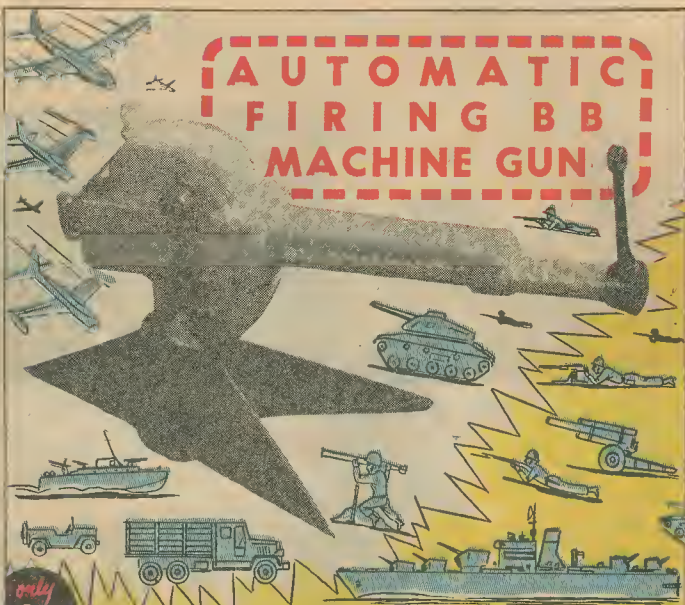
THAT NIGHT, AS RICHARD MANNING PARKED HIS CAR...

NEXT TIME, WE WON'T MISS, MANNING!

ZING!



AUTOMATIC FIRING BB MACHINE GUN



only
\$1.00

YOU GET ALL THIS!

- Automatic firing BB Machine Gun with swivel base
- Complete 21-piece task force selected of:
 - infantrymen
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Now you can be Commander-in-Chief of this complete task force. You can deploy your troops, navy and air force for attack or defense and every pitched battle is won, as your perfect plastic model of an actual machine gun goes into devastating action blasting your target in a hail of fast firing automatic repeating pellets. Simply pour in the BBs and then fire away. It's operated by a crank and sets up in a jiffy. The swivel base turns in a full circle assuring complete coverage and range, and it's removable so that you can carry your machine gun wherever you go. Fires automatically as many deadly BBs as you want as fast as you desire. And, you get a complete 21 piece Task Force of soldiers, tanks, gunners, trucks, bombers, cruisers, battleships and space ships. Plus a full supply of BBs all for only \$1.00+25c shipping charges. Don't delay! Order Now!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

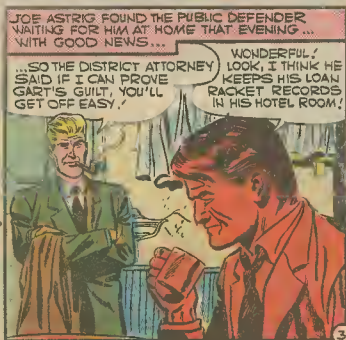
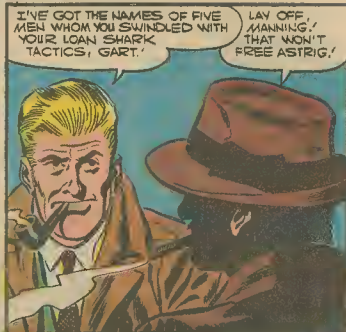
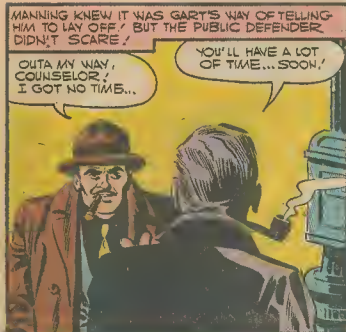
Honor House Products Dept. BB-7
Lynbrook, N. Y.

Rush my Automatic Firing BB Machine Gun and Complete Task Force Armada on 10 day Free Trial. If I am not completely satisfied, I may return it for prompt refund of full purchase price.

- ☐ I enclose \$100 + 25c shipping charges. Some money back guarantee
- ☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

RICHARD MANNING WAS HOME THAT NIGHT WHEN THE PHONE RANG.

HELLO, MANNING? JOE ASTRIG, MY WIFE'S AWAY. SOMEONE'S TRYIN' TO GET IN THE HOUSE.

PLAY DUMB TILL I GET THERE. PRETEND TO BE SHAVING OR SOMETHING...

RICHARD MANNING BROKE EVERY SPEED LAW... BUT AS HIS ROARING CAR CROSSED THE CITY, A MENACING FIGURE SMASHED THROUGH ASTRIG'S DOOR...

WHERE ARE YOU, SQUEALER? THE BOYS ARE OUTSIDE! YOU CAN'T RUN!

PUT THE GUN AWAY, GART. IT DOESN'T SCARE ME.

IT SHOULD -- I'M GONNA USE IT ON YUH.

THE MIRROR'S ALL STEAMED! HOW CAN A GUY SHAVE IN A STEAMY MIRROR?

YOU SHAVED FOR THE LAST TIME, BIG MOUTH.

ASTRIG HAD BEEN TRYING TO STALL FOR TIME... BUT HE KNEW HE'D LOST AS HE STARTED TO SCRAWL ON THE STEAMED MIRROR...

THEY'LL GET YOU FOR... UNGH.

NO ONE WILL GET ME. NO PROOF.

MANNING... MANNING WILL...

Leo Gart Shot

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

MANNING GOT THERE MOMENTS LATER. THE SMELL OF BURNED POWDER AND STEAM CAME THROUGH THE SMASHED DOOR...



POOR JOE'S IN A COMA. WHAT'S THAT ON THE MIRROR?



ASTRIG DID HIS BEST--BUT THAT'S FADING OUT. I'LL CALL THE POLICE AND AN AMBULANCE... THEN I'LL SEE GART.



MANNING FOUND GART WAITING FOR HIM. THE ARROGANT GANGSTER LAUGHED WHEN HE SAW HIM...

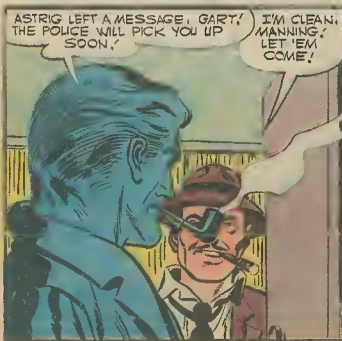
YOU LOST A CLIENT, EH, MANNING? BAD FOR YOUR REPUTATION.

NOT IF I GET THE MAN WHO SHOT HIM. AND YOU'RE THE ONE, GART.



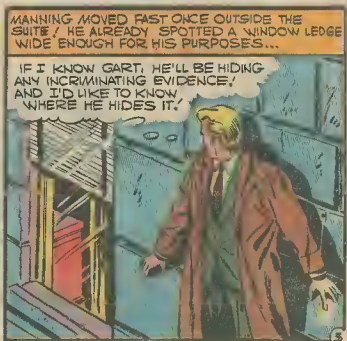
ASTRIG LEFT A MESSAGE. GART. THE POLICE WILL PICK YOU UP SOON.

I'M CLEAN, MANNING. LET 'EM COME!



MANNING MOVED FAST ONCE OUTSIDE THE SUITE. HE ALREADY SPOTTED A WINDOW LEDGE WIDE ENOUGH FOR HIS PURPOSES...

IF I KNOW GART, HE'LL BE HIDING ANY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE. AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHERE HE HIDES IT.



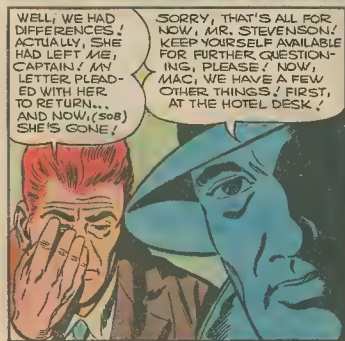
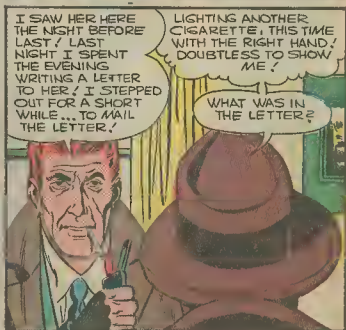
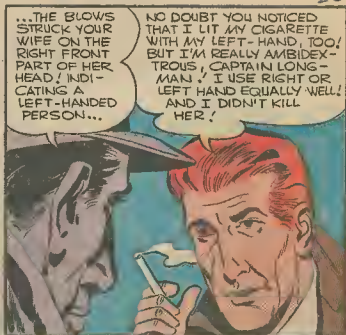
PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



THE POINTING CLUE



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

THE MANAGER OF THE HOTEL, YES?

THIS IS THE NIGHT PORTER, CAPTAIN! HE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!



I WAS CLEANING LAST NIGHT, ABOUT ELEVEN-THIRTY, SIR. A MAN CAME DOWN THE STAIRS... NOT FROM THE ELEVATOR! HE WAS QUITE THIN, SIR-- WITH RED HAIR...

SOUNDS LIKE STEVENSON, CAPTAIN! AT LEAST, THE MAN WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT PROWLERS NEAR HIS WIFE'S ROOM THE NIGHT BEFORE!



CAPTAIN LONGMAN THANKED THEM AND...

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAC, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ARREST STEVENSON ON SUSPICION OF MURDER!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D THINK IT WAS TIME TO DO SO, CAPTAIN!



THAT AFTERNOON, AT THE LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS BARON...

IN MY OPINION, CAPTAIN, NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE IT BUT STEVENSON. HE IS UTTERLY DEPENDENT ON HIS WIFE FOR HIS LIVING! SHE WAS ABOUT TO CUT HIM OUT OF HER WILL!

FROM THE WORDING OF YOUR LETTER, I SUSPECTED AS MUCH! THANK YOU, MR. BARON!



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS LATER THAT DAY...

CAPTAIN, YOUR PRISONER, STEVENSON, WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU IN HIS CELL!

WELL, CAPTAIN-- I GUESS THIS IS IT! CONFESSION, EH?

PERHAPS, MAC!



YOU ASKED TO SEE ME, MR. STEVENSON?

IT'S ABOUT THE QUARREL WITH MY WIFE, CAPTAIN! IT AROSE OUT OF MY BUYING EXPENSIVE JEWELS--ALL FOR HER, YOU UNDERSTAND! BUT THE RUB WAS THAT I CHARGED THEM TO HER ACCOUNT!



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

"I WAS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT GETTING THEM FOR HER!"



THEY'RE SO LOVELY, THEY LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL ON YOU...

YOU TWO-CENT CHISELER! BUYING JEWELS FOR ME ON MY ACCOUNT! YOU DIDN'T BUY THEM FOR ME BECAUSE YOU CARE HOW THEY LOOK-- YOU BOUGHT THEM TO GET A COMMISSION FROM YOUR BROTHER!

YOUR BROTHER?

YES, MY BROTHER JOHN, IS A JEWELER! HE SOLD THE JEWELS TO ME! WELL, HE WAS TO PAY ME A COMMISSION, CAPTAIN! A SMALL ONE, THAT IS! A MERE THOUSAND DOLLARS!



WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT NOW, STEVENSON?

WELL, I... I WANTED TO PROTECT MY BROTHER! BUT... NOW, IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!



LATER, AT WILL STEVENSON'S JEWELRY STORE.

...YES, I CALLED AT THE HOTEL AND RECEIVED BACK THE JEWELS I HAD SOLD MY BROTHER FOR HER ACCOUNT! WHY DO YOU ASK?

MRS. STEVENSON WAS MURDERED LAST NIGHT! I THINK YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG WITH US!



BACK AT THE HOTEL...

YES, SIR! THAT'S THE MAN I SAW! HE'S THE ONE!

I TELL YOU WHEN I LEFT MRS. STEVENSON'S ROOM-- SHE WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE!



"IF FACT, I THOUGHT THAT I MYSELF MIGHT BE THE VICTIM OF VIOLENCE"...

HERE ARE YOUR FILTHY JEWELS! TAKE THEM AND GET OUT... AND DON'T YOU OR YOUR BROTHER EVER RETURN HERE AGAIN!

WAIT... WAIT! I MUST GIVE YOU A RECEIPT, LYDIA!



500

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NEWS
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THE BEANS IN
BACK OF THE NEW
VARIANCE

PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

"I MADE OUT THE RECEIPT, SHE SNATCHED IT FROM ME AND STUCK IT INTO HER BAG! AS I LEFT SHE WAS RETRIEVING THE SCATTERED BILLS THAT HAD FALLEN OUT..."

NOW GET OUT! GET OUT!



"...AND BELIEVE ME, I LEFT! I DIDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR THE ELEVATOR..."

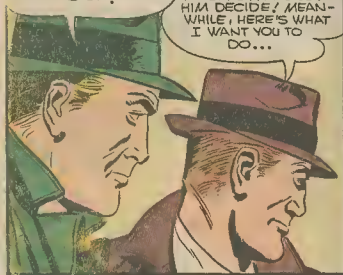
I'LL CHECK YOUR STATEMENTS THOROUGHLY, MR. STEVENSON! MEANWHILE, KEEP YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

BUT YOU CERTAINLY DON'T THINK NOW THAT I... I... Y-YES SIR! GOOD DAY!



WELL, SIR, YOU HAVE TWO PRIME SUSPECTS NOW! WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

I'LL TURN THE EVIDENCE OVER TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND LET HIM DECIDE! MEANWHILE, HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...



BZZZ... BZZZ...

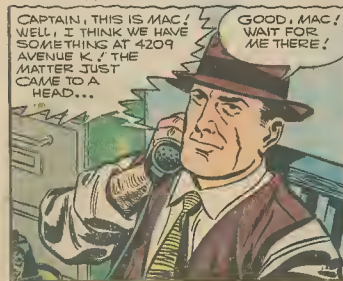
WHAT THE DICKENS! YOU DON'T BELIEVE...



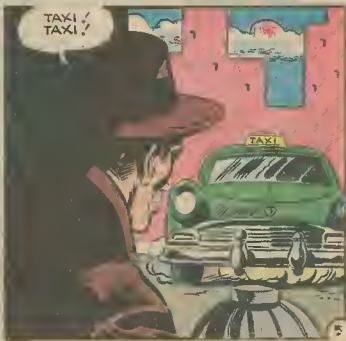
THINGS WENT AHEAD, WITH CHARGES PRESSED AGAINST BIRCHARD STEVENSON! HE WAS FORMALLY CHARGED WITH MURDER! THEN, THREE WEEKS LATER...

CAPTAIN, THIS IS MAC! WELL, I THINK WE HAVE SOMETHING AT 4209 AVENUE K! THE MATTER JUST CAME TO A HEAD...

GOOD, MAC! WAIT FOR ME THERE!



TAXI! TAXI!



PUBLIC DEFENDER IN ACTION

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GOOD, MAC!
LET'S GO!

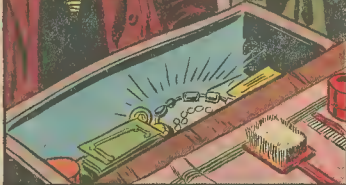
IT'S ON THE FOURTH
FLOOR, CAPTAIN!



EVENTUALLY...

HERE WE ARE, MAC! THE
RECEIPT FOR THE JEWELS!
SOME OF THE MONEY AT
LEAST! AND SOME
OF LYDIA STEVEN-
SON'S OWN
JEWELRY, TOO!

I GUESS YOUR
HUNCH WAS
RIGHT, CAPTAIN!
BUT WE'VE GOT
TO GET THE
PRISONER TO
CONFESS!



AT HEADQUARTERS...

YOU ARE JOE KRAFT?
AND IT'S TRUE, ISN'T
IT, THAT YOU HAVE A
LONG RECORD OF
CRIMES AGAINST YOU?

SO WHAT?
YOU GOT
NOTHIN' ON
ME!



ONLY THESE EVIDENCES OF MURDER FOUND IN
YOUR ROOM, KRAFT! YOU WERE PROWLING
ON THE FIRE ESCAPE OF THE HOTEL! YOU
SAW LYDIA STEVENSON SPILL HER MONEY
FROM HER BAG! WHEN HER GUEST LEFT
YOU ENTERED BY THE WINDOW--WHEN
SHE SCREAMED, YOU STRUCK AND
KILLED HER! THEN YOU STOLE HER
JEWELS, MONEY AND THIS RECEIPT
THAT WAS IN HER HANDBAG AND
LEFT BY THE WINDOW!



LATER, WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY...

WHAT MADE YOU
CHECK THE LINE-
UP FOR A
SIMILAR
CRIME,
CAPTAIN!

WELL, IT ALMOST HAD TO BE
THE OVERLOOKED PROWLER!
BIRCHARD STEVENSON SEEM-
ED TO HAVE NEITHER THE
STRENGTH NOR AGGRESSIVE-
NESS TO WIELD A BLUDGEON!
ALSO, HE DID NOT TRY TO
COVER UP HIS TENDENCY TO
USE HIS LEFT HAND!



AND
THE
BROTHER?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKELY
JOHN WOULD KILL JUST TO MAKE A
SALE! AND WITH THE CUSTOMER
WILLING TO RETURN THE JEWELS,
HE WOULD FEEL LUCKY TO BE
GETTING THEM BACK! SO, AS
I SAID BEFORE, THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT FIND
THE PROWLER, WHEN HE
PROWLED AGAIN!

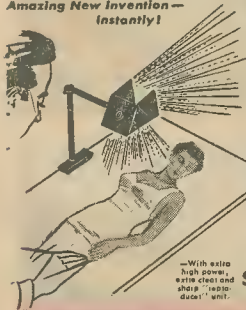


END

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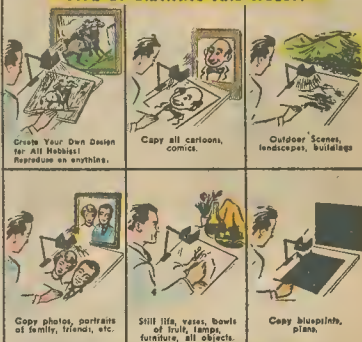
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—
F. S. N. Y.



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your course
weighed only 141
now weigh 170"
—
T. L. N. Y.



"My arms increased
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forearm 14½"
—
C. W. W. Va

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